

IN THE CLAIMS

6. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 5 22 wherein said depth filter segments are selected from the group consisting of a wound depth filter comprising nonwoven fibers, a stack of sheets wherein each sheet comprises nonwoven fibers and a fibrous mass of nonwoven polymeric fibers secured together by mechanical entanglement of the fibers.

7. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 5 22 wherein said slurry is selected from the group consisting of a silica-based slurry, an alumina-based slurry, a ceria-based slurry, a diamond-based slurry and a MnO_2 -based slurry, a cell broth, a photoresist chemical, a fermentation liquid, blood, a blood fraction and a transgenic liquid.

8. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 5 22 wherein said slurry is selected from the group consisting of a silica-based slurry, an alumina-based slurry, a ceria-based slurry, a diamond-based slurry and a MnO_2 -based slurry.

9. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 5 22 wherein said slurry is selected from the group consisting of a cell broth, a photoresist chemical, a fermentation liquid, blood, a blood fraction and a transgenic liquid.

22. (New) The process of filtering a slurry to remove undesirably large particles from a slurry with a filtration cartridge having a housing, an inlet to said housing, a conduit within said housing in fluid communication with said inlet, a first outlet from said conduit in fluid communication with a depth filter comprising depth filter segments separated by annular spacers surrounding said conduit and a second outlet from said housing, said filtration cartridge being free of an open void volume having a height greater than about 1 inch which causes

separation of desirably sized particles from said slurry upstream of a first surface of said depth filter in contact with said slurry, said annular spacers having a height between about 0.01 and about 0.12 inch, the ratio of the height of said depth filter segments to the height of said annular spacers being between about 1:1 and about 5:1, the annular spacer having an open portion and a solid portion, which comprises passing said slurry sequentially through said inlet, through said conduit, through said first outlet, through said depth filter and through said second outlet.